

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061228
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SIG-01 DHA-02 IO-13 ORM-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08 MC-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 DPW-01
/085 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DTKENNEY:LGR
APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT B. OAKLEY
P - MR. O'DONOHUE
S.S-MR.REDDY
S/S-MR.REDDY
-----190205Z 130010 /72-62

O 190057Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN TIMOR

REF: STATE 59033.

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE
WOLFF HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE
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COMMITTEE GENERAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF TIMOR SITUATION
AND EXPLANATION OF U.S. POLICY. GENERAL FISH OF DOD/DSAA
AND MR. ADLER OF AID ALSO TESTIFIED. SEPTTEL (NOTAL) COVERS
NON-TIMOR ISSUES.

2. ORIGINS OF THE TIMOR PROBLEM: OAKLEY TOLD COMMITTEE
THAT THE UPHEAVAL IN 1974 IN PORTUGAL AND ITS AFRICAN

COLONIES SPREAD RAPIDLY TO TIMOR. DISCUSSION BETWEEN VARIOUS TIMORESE POLITICAL GROUPS COLLAPSED IN AUGUST 1975, FIGHTING BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE VARIOUS TIMORESE FACTIONS, AND PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION ABRUPTLY WITHDREW WITHOUT HAVING MADE PREPARATIONS FOR ITS FUTURE. LEFTISTS AMONG PORTUGUESE GARRISON GAVE ARMS TO FRETILIN -- A TIMORESE FACTION CONSIDERED LEFT-WING BY TIMORESE STANDARDS AND ANTI-INDONESIAN -- WHICH CAPTURED CONSIDERABLE PART OF EAST TIMOR. FIGHTING CONTINUED INTO THE FALL, WHEN FRETILIN DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TERRITORY. AT THE REQUEST OF

THE OTHER TIMORESE FACTIONS, INDONESIA INTERVENED MILITARILY IN DECEMBER 1975.

3. US POLICY ON US ARMS: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY NOTED THAT TIMOR HAD CAUSED USG CONCERN. IN SEPTEMBER (I.E. BEFORE GOI INTERVENTION) USG HAD COUNSELED CAUTION, INDICATED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE USE OF US-SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND HAD MADE SURE THAT INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES WERE AWARE OF THE APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS OF U.S. LAW. SOME U.S. WEAPONS WERE, HOWEVER, USED BY THE INDONESIANS IN DECEMBER. THE SITUATION IN TIMOR AT THAT TIME WAS HIGHLY CONFUSED. IN LIGHT OF THIS, ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WAS TAKEN TO REVIEW THE SITUATION. OAKLEY EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT DURING THIS REVIEW THERE WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE HOLD ON NEW DELIVERIES AND THAT PIPELINE MATERIAL CONTINUED TO FLOW. THIS ADMINISTRATIVE HOLD LASTED FROM DECEMBER 1975 UNTIL JUNE 1976. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHETHER CONGRESS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF THIS SUSPENSION, OAKLEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BUT THERE WERE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS.

4. STATUS OF TIMOR: OAKLEY TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT INDONESIANS FORMALLY INCORPORATED EAST TIMOR IN LATE JULY 1975. THE LAST ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTED THIS AND THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT QUESTION IT. CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER CITED A PRESS STORY ABOUT US-SUPPLIED OV-10 BEING SHOT DOWN IN EAST TIMOR, ASKING WHAT IT WAS DOING IN EAST TIMOR AND WHETHER THIS WAS A VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW. OAKLEY REPLIED THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTED THE DECISION OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA. USG CONSIDERS EAST TIMOR AS PART OF INDONESIA, CONSEQUENTLY THERE IS NO PROHIBITION ON USE OF U.S. ARMS.

5. ATROCITY ALLEGATIONS: OAKLEY STATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK ANYONE HAD VERY ACCURATE FIGURES OF CASUALTIES IN TIMOR. THERE HAD BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF VIOLENCE IN AUGUST-

DECEMBER 1975 WHEN THERE WAS NO EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION. AFTER INDONESIAN ARMY INTERVENED IN DECEMBER 1975, THERE WAS FURTHER HEAVY FIGHTING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WHICH HAD CERTAINLY CAUSED CIVILIAN AS WELL AS COMBATANT CASUALTIES. OAKLEY INDICATED THAT A ROUGH GUESS OF TOTAL CASUALTIES WOULD BE UNDER 10,000, MOST OF THEM OCCURRING OVER A YEAR AGO, IN THE AUGUST 1975-MARCH 1976 PERIOD. HE NOTED THAT THERE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SOME OCCASIONS IN THIS PERIOD WHEN INDIVIDUAL INDONESIAN UNITS DID COMMIT EXCESSES, BUT THESE UNITS WERE QUICKLY RECALLED AND DISCIPLINED.

6. CURRENT SITUATION: OAKLEY AGAIN NOTED LACK OF PRECISE INFORMATION BUT SAID THAT LEVEL OF FIGHTING APPEARED TO BE RATHER LOW. THERE CONTINUED TO BE SOME GUERRILLA RESISTENCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE BUT INDONESIAN FORCES CONTROLLED MOST OF THE POPULATED AREAS. THE POLICY OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WAS APPARENTLY NOT TO CARRY OUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSIONS BUT TO MAINTAIN A PASSIVE DEFENSE, HOLDING THE POPULATION CENTERS AND STARTING TO ESTABLISH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

7. OAKLEY CONCLUDED THE TIMOR DISCUSSION BY STRESSING THAT WE WERE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE BROADEST SENSE.

8. POSTS MAY DRAW UPON ABOVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.

VANCE

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ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 /006 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: EA/RA/WGIM/MJ

APPROVED BY: EA/RA:RJMARTENS

EA/IMS:DKENNEY

EUR/NE:DJEREJIAN

EUR/NE:SWORREL

-----011940Z 015389 /46

R 310825Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION JAKARTA INFO BANGKOK, MANILA,
KUALA LUMPUR, SINGAPORE, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON FROM STATE
MARCH 19:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 061228

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: DTKENNEY:LGR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770342/aaaabknz.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 59033
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3058223
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN TIMOR
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS, (OAKLEY, PHYLLIS E)
To: JAKARTA BANGKOK MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df985cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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